

Freemen's Champion.



Prairie City, Kansas, July 2, 1857.

Fourth of July.

It will be observed by the programme published in another column, that extensive arrangements have been made for celebrating the "Glorious Fourth" in Prairie City. Invitations have been extended to the Sabbath Schools of Centropolis and Wakarusa, and it is hoped they will be present. Mr. Wm. Mawmney is making arrangements to prepare a dinner on a grand scale; talented speakers have been engaged, and Mr. O. P. Willett is forming a choir for the purpose of treating the assemblage to some soul-stirring odes. The Ottawa Rangers are expected to turn out in full force, when we shall once again have the privilege of witnessing those brave and noble champions of freedom who have done such good service in the fight cause last season, arrayed in their uniforms, the sight of which struck so much terror in the hearts of the Border Ruffians.

Eighty-one years ago was a dark period in our national history. The yoke of oppression which Great Britain had forced upon the necks of the colonists was too heavy to bear. They determined to throw it off. Their representatives met in solemn convocation at Philadelphia, and eighty-one years ago next Saturday declared this to be a "free and independent government." Then followed a long and bloody war. The colonists were against the most powerful nation on earth. In that glorious struggle of our fathers to obtain their freedom was exhibited some of the most noble instances of fortitude, valor, endurance, integrity and patriotism, the world ever witnessed. By their undying devotion to their sacred cause; by their unflinching adherence to their principles; by their assiduous zeal; by their unparalleled intrepidity, they triumphed over their oppressors, and secured for them and us that liberty which no other country on the globe enjoys. Green be the memory of the patriots of '76! Though we in Kansas have had wrestled from us that precious boon of freedom which our fathers labored and suffered so sacrificially for us to enjoy, let us not forget their noble examples of heroism and true patriotism, and the hardships they experienced in their struggles to establish a free republic. Let us reverence the memory of that noble band of patriots who, eighty-one years next Saturday, at "Independence Hall," Philadelphia, declared this a "free and independent republic," and "pledged their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor," to attain this.

Let the young, the middle-aged and the aged assemble on the approaching natal day, and devote tributes of respect and gratefulness to the immortal heroes whose ashes venerate the soil of the beloved country for which they sacrificed so much to make free. Let us on that day all unite our voices in an anthem of praise to the Supreme Ruler of our destinies, for casting our lot in this happy period of our world's history, and in this blessed country. Let us thank Him for the lucid prospects of soon having an end to the reigning of tyrants and demagogues in Kansas, as well as in our whole country, and for the new era dawning, in which we shall enjoy to the fullest extent the inherent rights of life, liberty and protection, guaranteed us by our fathers of '76.

Fugit Acquitted.

This notorious villain, who was recently arrested on a charge of murdering Hopps last fall, was tried before a drunken, pro-slavery jury at Leavenworth last week, acquitted, and sent down the river for fear justice would be meted out to him in some other manner. The liquor bill of the jurors during the trial was \$200, which of course was paid by Fugit. This is law and justice under the "National Democratic" reign in Kansas.

Our young lady readers will find something for their especial benefit in the cards headed "Matrimony."

The College.

On Wednesday last, we took a stroll upon "Liberty Hill," where we found Mr. John Graham and his "army of masons" busily at work on the college building. The wall had then reached the height of five feet. The size of the structure is 40 by 60 feet, wall 2 1/2 feet thick, and when completed will be two stories high, each 12 feet, and surmounted by a cupola of appropriate dimensions. Mr. Graham informs us that he will have in his employ this week six more hands, making a strong force of twelve, which he intends keeping on the college building till about the 4th inst., when operations will be suspended on it for a short season, to enable him to fulfill some other contracts in town.

The site selected for this college is as lovely a one as the Territory affords. Surrounding it is a scope of country of most magnificent beauty, composed of undulating prairies and groves of timber, dotted here and there with the rude tenements of the hardy pioneers—giving the scenery the resemblance of one vast estate, owned by some wealthy landlord; the cabins being the abodes of his tenants, and the groves his orchards. Far off to the extreme south may be seen the timber skirting on the waters of the Marias de Cygnus; a little to the left may be seen the reservations of the Peorias, the Weas, the Kaskaskias, the Piankashaws and the Ottawas; a little nearer are seen looming up with haughty grandeur Ottawa Mountain and Pilot Knob. Turn to the north and you see the villages of Willow Springs and Brooklyn, and to the east Palmyra, Missouri City, and the timber of Hickory Point. We are almost sure that if the Rev. John Pierpont, on his recent visit to the Territory, could have been blessed with the privilege of standing on Liberty Hill, and there behold the enchanting scenery before him, instead of remarking that "God might make a lovelier country, but it is very certain that he never has," he would have been tempted to say "God could not make a lovelier country."

We learn from Dr. Graham that the amount subscribed and raised for the erection of this college will fall about \$500 short of the required sum. We trust our citizens will take immediate measures to supply this deficiency, as it would be detrimental to our interests to have the building remain on our hands in an unfinished state for want of funds. It would not only give us the name of being slack and dilatory in business matters, but will also keep us so much the longer deprived of that which we so much need.

A New Project on Foot.

We are requested to state that a proposition is under consideration, to erect an Odd Fellow's Hall in our City, on the joint stock plan. It is intended to push the project to a successful consummation by fall. Persons feeling interested in the project, whether members of the fraternity or not, can be posted in reference to the matter on application to Dr. Canniff, who is authorized to receive subscriptions for stock, and to give notice of a meeting for organizing the board. As this is a matter of public interest, designed to benefit the town, it is hoped that all friendly to the project will call on the Doctor and subscribe.

Fatal Affray.

We learn that a man by the name of A. J. Ware, residing near Leavenworth, got into a quarrel with another man about a claim which resulted in the death of Ware on Tuesday, of last week. It is said that Ware's contestant came and ordered him off, which, refusing to do, he was shot dead. Our informant could not learn the name of the man who committed the deed, or any further particulars.

The "Stubbs" rifle company, of Lawrence, were out last Saturday, to pay their last respects to the memory of one of their number, who died on Friday. They followed the coffin through the principal streets of Lawrence, accompanied by the Brass Band, which contributed a solemnity to the occasion by the execution of a death march. Verily, the pioneers of Kansas are beginning to pass away.

Judge Drummond of Illinois.

This gentleman has been conspicuous for some weeks past, as the writer of letters attacking our charges against the morality of the currency and the respect of the Mormons at Utah, for the constitution and laws of the United States. He has charged them with all manner of crimes—murder being the most conspicuous—and they have had a great run in the United States. We confess, therefore, we were not prepared to find charges of an equally flagrant and extravagant character, preferred against this same individual, by the Ogawka Plaindealer, published in the town in which he formerly resided. We hope there may be some mistake in this statement, but if not, all will agree that this Judge is no better than a Mormon. The Plaindealer says:

"At the time he received his appointment of Chief Justice, he was a resident of this town. He left his wife and family here to go to Utah, and by the time he had reached the Missouri river, according to a correspondent of the N. Y. Tribune, who appears to have been traveling on the same boat, Judge Drummond was accompanied by his beautiful and accomplished lady. The press in this place well know his perfidy, but out of regard to the feelings of his family remained silent."

"After Drummond's resignation, and return to the States, he seemed to evince no desire to visit his family. When it was announced through the press that he was in Chicago, Mrs. Drummond proceeded thither to seek an interview with him, and although she stopped at the same hotel, and remained one night while he was there, he managed to screen himself from her sight, and the next morning she actually got aboard of the train and came to this place, and took two of his children away with him. His wife remained a week in Chicago, seeking in vain for her faithless husband, and then returned home only to have a more bitter pang added to her already broken heart, to find that her children had been spirited away, she knew not where."

Hay Caps.

Some thousands of tons of hay might be saved, and much hard work and vexation prevented, says the N. Y. Tribune, if all the farmers would provide themselves with hay caps before commencing their haying. Now is the time to provide them, and nothing can be more simple. All that is wanted is a many pieces of cotton sheeting, two yards square, and you will be likely to have dozens of hay at any one time, baled to be caught in a shower. The corners of the cloth should have loops to pin them to the hay by long wooden pins made of hazle bush or any other smooth sticks, which are preferred to stones in the corners.

As to the usefulness, profitability and convenience of hay caps, there is now no longer any room for dispute—the thing has been proved by thousands—proved that no farmer in America can afford to do without hay caps; because they will generally pay for their cost every year, and some seasons those who have used them assert they have paid their cost more than twice over.

Mills Burned.

Gen. Lane's saw-mill, at Benicia, a short distance above Lawrence, was burned a short time since, together with several thousand feet of lumber. There is but little doubt but that it was set on fire by some of Lane's political enemies.

The steam saw-mill at Oswatimie, owned by the New England Emigrant Aid Company, was burned down, on the morning of the 15th inst., at about half-past two o'clock. Supposed to be the work of incendiaries. Messrs. Tator & Wood, who have been running the mill, are arranging for the immediate reconstruction of a new one near the site of the one burned.

Sales of the Peoria trust lands commenced at Paoli on last Wednesday. We learn that a large number of speculators are present, and are running up the land to pretty high figures—ranging from \$1.50 to \$2.25 per acre. Difficulties between the squatters and speculators were apprehended at first, but everything has proceeded quietly thus far. About one township is disposed of per day. The sales will probably continue for two weeks. Governor Walker is expected there this week.

Location of Baker University—Our Prospects.

Last Wednesday the Trustees of Baker University assembled at Palmyra, to decide upon the place for locating their institution. Two days were consumed in their deliberations, when they finally agreed that it should be located upon the section of land between this place and Palmyra, which had been bargained for its benefit. This brings the University within one mile of us, instead of three, as it was supposed it would be. We understand that it is the design of the stockholders to survey the entire section into lots, which are to be sold to the highest bidder and the proceeds appropriated to the University until \$200,000 have been expended on it. Operations are to be commenced on it this season with a capital in hand of \$5,000.

Two Colleges at Prairie City—one within the town limits, and another within one mile. Colleges, churches, Sabbath schools, a district school and a newspaper! Who says we have not the elements in this place for the formation of a great and noble community, and then a vigorous essential for the building up of a city? With a site not excelled for beauty by any other town in the Territory; with a wide and fertile populated country surrounding; dependent on us for a market; with a striving, energetic, industrious, go-ahead, ambitious people; with educational advantages far exceeding those of any other town west of the Mississippi;—is it not safe to predict that we shall soon rank among the first interior cities of Kansas?

A colony of about fifty persons, have been encamped near our city for the past three or four days. They are from the northern part of Iowa and are mostly farmers. They have with them horses, cattle, agricultural implements, household furniture—everything indispensable for farming. They are anxious to locate in our vicinity, and if suitable claims can be obtained on reasonable terms, will do so. We noticed among them several boys and blooming daughters of the Hawk-eye State. Can't our young men induce them to stay?

We had a call last Saturday from Mr. Wm. Phillips, a reliable correspondent of the N. Y. Tribune and Marshal of the State of Kansas. He is on a tour through the central portion of the State, appointing Deputies to take the census, according to the provision of an act of the last session of the Legislature. He appointed Mr. G. W. E. Griffith Deputy Marshal for this Township, who has entered at once upon his duties.

In the hall of the Committee of Arrangements, containing the programme of the exercises of the "Fourth" celebration, which was published a few days since, some speakers were announced, who, it has subsequently been ascertained, cannot be present. The Committee, however, are making great exertions to secure good speakers, and in due season they will issue a card, informing the public who they have succeeded in obtaining.

We bespeak attention to the call of the Central Committee, for a State Convention to be held at Topeka, July the 15th. The objects set forth in the call, are sufficient to demonstrate the importance of the meeting. Let arrangements, therefore, be made to secure a full representation from every part of Kansas.

Edward Ward, an Abolitionist of Charleston, Mass., and a man of family, recently disappeared from that quiet town, taking with him \$15,000 to \$20,000 in money, that did not belong to him. He had previously borne a good reputation.

A mine has been discovered on the farm of Mr. Joseph A. Hill, in Marry county, Tenn., which promises to be very rich in the yield of gold. Considerable excitement is felt in that neighborhood in regard to it.

The Mormon population at Utah is estimated at one hundred thousand, and in the adjoining States and Territories at two hundred thousand more, all subjects to the will of Brigham Young.

We have some Prairie City shares for sale at this office.

What a Correspondent Says of Us.

In a late number of the Aurora (Ill.) Guardian, we find a communication from Prairie City, Kansas, written by a correspondent of that paper, while sojourning in this place. We make a few extracts:

"I am writing in the house which one year ago was the scene of warfare and Border Ruffian defeat and disgrace. Then, as now, kept by an ardent patriot, who, with his sons, were foremost in all the engagements which were had in this region. The name of Archibald Harris and his noble wife are worthy of a conspicuous place in the history of Kansas. The story of the battle of Black Jack is familiar to all your readers. The scene of this battle is only four miles from this place, to which the prisoners taken by the Free State men were brought, and treated with all possible kindness by their captors. This battle was fought principally by Captain Sam. Shore, with sixteen men, assisted by Captain Brown, of Oswatimie, with ten men. The enemy, commanded by the distinguished Henry Clay Fane, consisted of nearly eighty men. Twenty-six prisoners were brought to the house of Mr. Harris, and entertained with the best the country afforded, the captors deferring their eating till the prisoners were supplied. The prisoners were kindly cared for and nursed by Mrs. Harris and others, and treated with the utmost humanity; but no sooner were they released by Col. Sumner than they turned upon their benefactors with the basest ingratitude. A Mr. Cantrell was going to his home with a pair of butter, and when near his destination was captured by a band of these Ruffians, who informed his wife that they should eat the butter for supper, and the body of her husband for breakfast. It is not stated that they did eat his flesh, but they killed him next morning. What a pity the butter was not filled with strychnine."

"On one occasion a large band of Ruffians on horseback surrounded the Harris house, with only eight men inside. Mrs. Harris left the house for a neighbor's, when she was surrounded by the chivalry, and asked how many the house contained; she replied, she did not count them, but the house was full, probably two or three hundred. This was too much for these brave soldiers, who put spurs to horse and left the diggings as fast as their horses could carry them."

Had I time, I could give many reminiscences of last year's events which transpired in this vicinity, but I must forego the pleasure.

"Prairie City is situated on a beautiful rolling prairie, fifteen miles south of Lawrence, with a better supply of timber near it than many large towns in Illinois. Water for stock abundance, and for domestic purposes, it is found in springs in and near town, and wells varying from ten to thirty-five feet deep. Messrs. Shore & McManus, and Messrs. Winton & Willett, keep all kinds of goods wanted for family use and building, at prices but little higher than in Aurora. It is said they are doing a large business—from \$100 to \$300 a day in cash. All kinds of mechanics are wanted here, and can command large wages. The Town Association donates one or more good lots to persons who will improve them. Whole regiments of pretty girls can come on at once, for they are wanted badly."

"Preaching is had here every Sunday, by ministers of different denominations. Yesterday, I attended Sunday school, and found forty-seven scholars and teachers engaged in the exercises of the occasion. The school has a library of nearly 200 volumes. This is doing much for the future prosperity of Prairie City."

"Messrs. Whiteman & Cradit, of Batavia, are erecting a saw-mill four miles from here; another is in operation two and a half miles N. E. from here, and the engine and machinery for another arrived here to-day, and is now being put up, half a mile from this city, in a large body of timber, on the middle fork of Ottawa Creek. Lumber will be abundant for building purposes, as soon as these mills are in operation, say in four weeks, at prices varying from \$30 to \$45. Any man or woman of reasonable aspirations, can live happily and well in this part of Kansas at the present time, with promise of a more than ordinary share of the blessing of this world in a few years."

"The health of the country is very good at present; what it will hereafter be, is for the future to determine, yet every thing indicates a very healthy country."

"One of our exchanges announces that a Mr. White, living in Venice, Pa., was recently murdered in his own bed by some one who wished to get his money. The editor adds that 'Tuckey' Mr. White had deposited his money in bank the day before.' Mr. White lost nothing but his life."

Governor of Utah—Col. Cummings, of St. Louis, it seems, has been consulted the appointment of Governor of Utah. He has not yet accepted.

[For the Champion.] The School Sections Again.

Mr. Edron.—In your last number, "Vindex," broached a subject, which is either of great importance to our community, or it is not worth the space, his communication occupies in your paper. If it is possessed of any interest to the people, they will manifest that interest by any action which may be necessary.

But there is a question connected with this subject which must be taken into the account. Persons have taken possession of the School Sections of this Township, and it is thought by some that their claims are valid ones, or that they will hold the land.—Would it not be well to have some enquiries instituted in the proper quarters, to ascertain the facts of the case? If said claims are legal and tenable, it won't pay to vex the question, and if otherwise, some steps should be taken to protect the people's rights. Will you favor us with your opinion?

BLACK JACK.

With pleasure, Mr. Black Jack. The pre-emption law of 1841, requires that every 16th and 32d sections, shall be reserved for educational purposes. There is no provision made for people who have claimed those sections prior to survey. The law don't treat on the subject. We are of the opinion, however, that settlers occupying these sections will be compelled to vacate them. Squatters, too impatient to wait for Uncle Sam to mark out farms for them, must run their own risk, if they chance to trespass on his premises. The old fellow, though, may be lenient to his eager sons, and by taxing them a little for their rashness, may possibly succeed in adjusting the matter satisfactorily to all concerned.

For the satisfaction of Black Jack and ourself, we have addressed a line to the Register at Leocompton, for information on this subject, the answer to which we will make public.

Prairie City Sabbath School.

We visited the Sabbath School at this place on last Sabbath, and were pleased to find a large, interesting and orderly school. The Secretary announced the number in attendance to be sixty-six, and we are informed that this is the usual number. The Library contains about 200 vols., besides a supply of Testaments, Bibles, Hymns, questions, &c. For this we understand they are indebted to the efforts of Jonas Griffith and Mrs. Blair, of Perryville, Ind.—sent last fall in care of Mr. G. W. E. Griffith, of this place. This was a noble act, and we wish others might follow this benevolent example until every neighborhood in Kansas was supplied with a good Sabbath School Library.

We are pleased to see schools, churches, and other offsprings of free institutions prevailing in this new country.

A Fact Well Put.

The charleston Mercury thus closes an article upon the political prospects of Kansas:

"Mr. Pierce courageously and faithfully endeavored to enforce the true policy of the Union and the policy of the Democratic Party, and was beaten down by the Democratic Party itself. If Kansas is not surrendered to the North before Mr. Buchanan's four years of service shall transpire, he will be as powerless as Mr. Pierce."

There is a distinct recognition of the fact, that the principle of self-preservation will require that the Democratic Administration make Kansas a Free State. The belief that it was intended to carry Slavery here, lost that Party the whole North except three States, and in those three it was saved from a similar defeat only by the pledges of its supporters that Kansas should be free. If Kansas should now be brought into the Union as a Slave State, the Administration would lose every Northern State. It is the conviction of this fact which will make it free.

Dred Scott is a slave no more, having been emancipated with all his family by a gentleman of St. Louis, to whom they had been conveyed for that purpose by Mr. Chaffee, of Massachusetts. Being a freeman, in spite of Chief Justice Taney, we suppose he now enjoys rights which white men are not respected.